

DISCOVER CHILEAN PATAGONIA: SMALL GROUP TOUR



INTRODUCTION


Explore amazing Chile on this 13 day small group tour, Discover Chilean Patagonia.

This small group tour is fantastic for photography, wildlife, hiking and getting off the beaten track with a small group of like minded travellers. Chile is a land of myths and legends, unique folklore and culinary traditions.

We start our tour just a short flight south of Santiago in Puerto Varas where two magnificent snow-capped volcanoes, Osorno and Calbuco, stand guard over the picturesque town and its scenic Lake Llanquihue. Discover Chiloe Island and its quaint palafitos – colourful houses built on stilts above the water, and its unique traditions. Nature lovers will also delight in the island's striking landscapes. Heading down to the deep south delve into the local culture and history of the area in Punta Arenas, there are even replica models of ships including Charles Darwin's Beagle to explore. Marvel at Southern Patagonia's icy beauty and its rugged, towering mountains, visiting the famous Torres Del Paine National Park. Spot an impressive array of animals found within the park like guanaco, rhea and puma.

Please note: This tour requires a minimum of 6 guests to depart. We suggest you wait to book your international flights until the tour has met minimum numbers.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
CLVVDCP
DEPARTURE
17/10/2023, 30/10/2023, 17/11/2023, 20/12/2023, 09/01/2024, 26/01/2024, 16/02/2024, 15/03/2024
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Chile & Patagonia


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DAY 1: Puerto Varas

Your tour begins in Puerto Varas which lies at the southern end of the Lake District under the shadow of the snow-capped Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Puerto Varas sits on the shores of Lake Llanquihue and is known as "The City of Roses".



DAY 2: Puerto Varas

Today we will visit two of the region's most stunning natural wonders, the Osorno Volcano and Petrohué Falls. Despite its low altitude, the upper slopes of Osorno volcano are covered in glaciers and the views from the top are truly spectacular. From here we continue to the Petrohué Falls located deep in the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park. The chute-type, icy cold, blue green falls stem from the Todos los Santos Lake the next and final stop on today's trip.



DAY 3: Puerto Varas to Chiloe Island

We sail to Chiloe Island, perhaps encountering sealions, pelicans and sea birds native to this area. On Chiloe Island we will head to Ancud city to visit the San Antonio Fort; an historic landmark that is one of the last Spanish fortifications in Chile. We continue to Dalcahue to visit an interesting Palafito market. The wooden based construction is built over the water with a spectacular sea view. We also take in the Handicraft Market and walk to the local World Heritage listed church.



DAY 4: Chiloe Island

Today we head south from Castro and can enjoy the country life as we pass small farms dotted with grazing animals, and several beautiful lakes. Arriving at Chiloé National Park we'll do an easy hike in the forest which is home to an important biodiversity of species. After our hike, we'll visit the indigenous community of Quilque, where we'll enjoy a local light lunch and then stop at Chonchi to visit its World Heritage wooden church.



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DAY 5: Chiloe Island to Puerto Montt

We depart Chiloe Island by ferry and return to Puerto Montt, stopping at Angelmó, a small bay at the west end of Puerto Montt. Angelmó can be divided into two main areas. The first part is a long street bursting with many stalls selling traditional Chilean handicrafts. The second area is the harbour where we will find the fish market and restaurants. Angelmó is a seafood extravaganza with a large variety of fresh fish and seafood.



DAY 6: Puerto Montt to Punta Arenas

Today we will fly south to Punta Arenas, the historic capital of the Magallanes Region and of the Chilean Antarctic. The city has many treasures, including the statue of Magellan at the centre of the Plaza Armas and the iconic Palacio Sara Braun. The city's public cemetery is adorned with beautiful gardens, whilst the Mirador Cerro la Cruz is a lookout point that offers a spectacular panorama of the city's colourful houses.



DAY 7: Punta Arenas to Torres Del Paine National Park

Today we head towards Torres Del Paine, South America's finest National Park and a trekker's paradise. In this area are the colossal towers and horns of granite that have given the park worldwide fame. The park preserves numerous animals like guanacos, condors, ñandues (South American ostrich), foxes and the elusive puma. We break the hike into three separate walks, hiking an average of 15km (9.5mi) to 20km (12mi) each day. The group is assisted by expert local trekking guides who guide us through the hiking trails. Other than hiking there are activities available inside Torres Del Paine. Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On.



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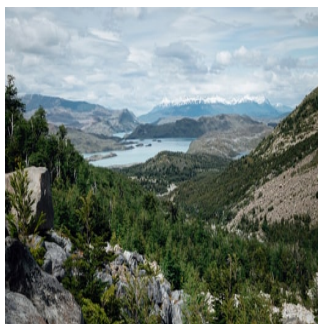
DAY 8: Torres Del Paine National Park

Las Torres Hike (Difficult) Hiking to view the iconic Las Torres (the Towers) is a challenging yet immensely satisfying hike. The Towers are the three massive granite columns that encircle the smaller Torres Glacier. The Towers hike is by far the most strenuous of all the hikes. It takes in dirt paths, some steep in areas, through valleys with a great river underneath, within beautiful forests, river crossings and a final scramble over boulders to the base of the towers. Full walk takes approximately 8 - 9 hours return. * Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On.



DAY 9: Torres Del Paine National Park

French Valley Hike (Moderate - Difficult) The French Valley is the most beautiful valley in the Torres del Paine National Park. It is a steep hike and offers incredible panoramic views of Los Cuernos del Paine, the French Glacier and Lakes Nordenskjold, Pehoé, Scottsburg and Toro. Finishing at the French Lookout with a 300m/1000ft elevation gain we can sit, watch and hear ice crack and maybe even see a mini avalanche. We stay overnight at the Paine Grande Refuge so we do not have to return across the lake to our hotel. Full walk takes approximately 8 - 9 hours return. * Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On.



DAY 10: Torres Del Paine National Park to Puerto Natales

Greys Glacier trek (Easy - moderate) Grey Glacier is one of the principal tourist attractions located in Chile. The lake's creamy blue colour dotted with floating icebergs and the Patagonia Icefield at the back is a breath taking sight. Hiking through a combination of valleys, inclines and forest we reach the remarkable lookout point, before hiking down to the Refugio Grey Glacier viewpoint which brings us a lot closer to this magnificent ice sheet. The full walk takes approximately 7 - 8 hours return. * Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On.



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DAY 11: Tour ends

Depart Puerto Natales to Punta Areas for your onward journey, compete with wonderful memories, and a new respect of our wonderful planet courtesy of Patagonia. Or perhaps join one of our connecting voyages to Antarctica, the frozen continent.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Lodge Stays
Inclusions	<p>Inclusions</p> <p>Small Group Tour - Guaranteed to depart fully guided with a minimum of 6 people, maximum of 20</p> <p>Flights Santiago - Puerto Montt - Puerto Varas</p> <p>Airport transfers</p> <p>All entrance fees, national park fees on all day tours (unless otherwise stated)</p> <p>Meals as indicated</p> <p>Exclusions:</p> <p>Single room supplement</p> <p>International flights</p> <p>Visa & reciprocity fees (if applicable)</p> <p>Travel insurance</p> <p>Beverages</p> <p>Personal expenses including Laundry & Drinks</p> <p>Gratuities for tour guides & drivers</p> <p>Any items not mentioned as included</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	<p>A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.</p> <p>Same sex room share may be available. Please contact us for more information.</p>

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Notes

Prices are based on per person, twin share.
Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note: This tour requires a minimum of 6 guests to depart. We suggest you wait to book your international flights until the tour has met minimum numbers. We will advise you if the tour does not meet minimum numbers no later than 90 days prior to departure.

Price Dependent upon

Availability, seasonality and currency exchange rate at the time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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